

This is the third time I have written to the FCC and only the fourth time I have ever written to a governmental official. As in the past, I am seriously concerned about recent changes to rules that govern media consolidation. To my mind, there is no greater threat to our democracy than the increased number of media outlets owned by a mere handful of large companies. As media control tightens, the ability of the average citizen to be exposed a variety of ideas and messages lessens. The First Amendment of our Constitution is founded on this very principle; the consolidation of media flies in the face of our most basic values.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary only days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves FREE OF CHARGE, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

In light of Sinclair's actions, I strongly urge the FCC to reconsider Sinclair's licensing in the future.

Thank you.